IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong proximate a tubular at a well center, comprising:

at most one cantilevered extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;

an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable structure relative to the well center; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the telescopically extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the telescopically extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the tong is movably attached to the inner barrel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a clamp assembly for securing the outer barrel to the carriage.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the outer barrel is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the carriage.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable structure is disposed on the carriage.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable structure to the carriage.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clamping assembly is releasable connected to the carriage.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor actuable to adjust the position of the extendable structure with respect to said mounting assembly.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable structure.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable structure horizontally.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tong is movably attached to the extendable structure.

25-34. (Cancelled without prejudice).

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

at most one cantilevered extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong for making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable structure;

a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the tong is movably attached.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong proximate a well center, comprising:

an extendable boom, the tong for making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable boom, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable boom;

an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable boom; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable boom.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the extendable boom is telescopic.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a vertical axis.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the telescopically extendable boom comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the telescopically extendable boom further comprises an intermediate barrel.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable boom is disposed on the carriage.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable boom to the carriage.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the clamping assembly is releasably connected to the carriage.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a motor actuable to adjust the position of the extendable boom with respect to said mounting assembly.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable boom.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable boom horizontally.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

at most one extendable beam structure, the extendable beam having a variable length and the tong capable of making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable beam structure;

a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable beam structure; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable beam structure.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tong is movably attached.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is movable in at least two planes.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the extendable beam structure is movable in at least two planes.

56. Cancelled.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is telescopic.

58. (Previously Presented) A method of positioning a tong to make up or break out tubulars, comprising:

providing at most one extendable beam structure having a variable length;

attaching the tong to a first end of the extendable beam structure;

coupling a second end of the extendable beam structure to a mounting assembly;

moving the tong from a first position to a second position;

engaging the tubulars with the tong; and

one of making or breaking a connection of the tubulars.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the extendable beam structure is telescopic.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable beam structure.

62. (Previously Presented) A tong assembly for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

an extendable boom; and

a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars mounted at one end of the boom;

wherein a center of mass of the tong is alignable with a longitudinal center line of the boom when the tong is mounted on the boom.

63. Cancelled.

64. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for connecting tubulars, comprising:

a tong adapted to connect the tubulars;

an extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable boom;

an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable boom; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable boom.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the apparatus is disposed on a drilling rig.

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the tong is adapted to rotate a one tubular with respect to another tubular.

67. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular proximate a well center, comprising:

providing an apparatus for connecting the tubulars, the apparatus comprising:

a tong adapted to connect the tubulars;

an extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;

actuating the extendable structure to move the tong toward the well center;

engaging the first and second tubulars with the tong; and

connecting the first tubular to the second tubular.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein connecting the first tubular to the second tubular comprises rotating the first tubular relative to the second tubular.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein moving the tong from the first position to the second position comprises varying the length of the extendable beam.